

## Question no: 01

### 1. Introduction:

According to this statement,  
"Domestic Policy can only defeat us; Foreign Policy can kill us"

means that both the policies  
i.e. domestic or foreign are crucial  
for the existence of a state. But foreign  
policy has far more implications.

Despite this the importance of  
domestic policies can't be neglected.  
Both are inherently interlinked.

If there is something wrong with a  
country's foreign relations, it is due  
to the fact that something is wrong  
with the domestic policy. In context of  
Pakistan its domestic policy has made  
it dependent on external powers. This  
has created imbalanced relations with  
the foreign countries. Certainly, there  
are loopholes for which the country  
is unable to find the new allies.

The rise of extremists allies, USA

increasing its ties with India and India's stance on Kashmir, Pakistan losing its strategic depth and political instability and economic turmoil have made Pakistan to rethink of its foreign policy.

## II A historical review of the foreign policy

Initially as a newborn state, Pakistan faced challenges to its security and economic survival. In order to counter these challenges, Pakistan searched for strong relations with a major strategic partner.

At the same time USA was also searching for major allies due to the arrival of Cold war in the South-Asian region. These conditions were perfect for both USA and Pakistan to come closer and establish some strong relations. USA assistance established a balance of power in the South-Asian region and also helped Pakistan to undergo

its socio-economic development. These strengthened the elite based ruling establishment also. Thus army became the predominant player in Pakistan's politics. Further in the later years the country's geopolitical location and its Islamization made it an attractive partner for Saudi Arabia, China and USA. Especially China and Pakistan who in the later years became strong allies. Similarly during these years Pakistan stood up well to India's hegemony and its nuclear capabilities. Pakistan also enjoyed good relations with the Muslim world.

III Current Scenario - good old days are gone

Now the policy has been made less of a concern for national interests and more by priorities of the political leaders. Due to this there are certain loopholes in Pakistan.

seems to be isolated at the global level. Pakistan is not able to ~~has~~ find new allies and due to its political instability and economic turmoil, Pakistan's lobby at international level seems to be ineffective. Although the country wants to change its path from geo-strategic to geo-economics, it is highly unlikely due to the current prevailing situation in the country.

#### IV Pakistan's Foreign Policy Challenges

Pakistan's foreign policy is shaped by combination of security concerns, diplomatic challenges, economic stability and stability within its domestic spheres.

##### - i Security concerns

Security concerns includes terrorism within the country and from the other country across the border.

Over the past 50 years, Pakistan has been part of conflicts either directly

or indirectly. Recently Pakistan has been facing challenges in its security domain from Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and ISK-P. Pakistan has seen surge in attacks since the Afghan Taliban take over the charge of Kabul. According to the former interior minister of Pakistan, the country has seen an increased of 59% in the terrorist attacks from the previous year.

Moreover India's activities in the Balochistan and a recent attack by Iran in the Balochistan province pose serious challenges to the foreign policy of Pakistan.

-ii Diplomatic challenges

(a) maintaining balance between China and USA

China is the biggest investor in Pakistan. It has also stood by Pakistan on international forums and have supported the cause of

Kashmir. Similarly USA is the biggest destination of Pakistan's export. It is also a key international player. For Pakistan, balancing both is the key issue for Pakistan and it's a serious challenge to Pakistan's foreign policy.

(b) After the revocation of Article 370-A, Pakistan faces challenge to curb India's influence.

Pakistan has always supported for the cause of Kashmir and consider it as its own. After the revocation of article 370-A by Delhi, Pakistan is facing a serious challenge that how to curb India's influence on the world.

Pakistan need strong partners and active diplomacy to highlight the atrocities of the Indian government.

(c) US-India Strategic Partnership causing some real problems for Pakistan. The rising US-India Strategy.

has far more implications for Pakistan.

This is creating an environment of hegemony of one state in South-Asia. This is also disturbing the balance in this region.

Moreover with its growing ties with USA, India is also trying to suppress the Kashmir issue and its atrocities on the Kashmiri people.

#### (d) USA backing Israel in the Middle East

Another challenge Pakistan is facing that USA is backing Israel in the Middle East.

Pakistan has always raised voices for its muslim brothers and Israel's atrocities in Gaza.

It poses a serious challenge to the foreign policy of Pakistan that how at International level they can highlight these atrocities and how to manage the relations with USA.

iii

## Economic Challenges

### -i Economic Instability

According to Pakistan's bureau of statistics, Pakistan's fiscal deficit is around 6.5% of its total GDP. Not only this country is facing some severe crises regarding instability, inflation, rising unemployment, balance of payment crises, and debt servicing and etc. Economic stability is essential for Pakistan's foreign policy to effectively engage with other people. Pakistan cannot strengthen its position in the international community with this current prevailing condition of economy.

### -ii Negative Image Perception

Due to the current political instability in the country, the international community is not seeing Pakistan with a soft heart in order to pursue



a beneficial foreign policy and relations of cooperation with. There is need to correct the domestic instability. As William Ewart says;

"Here is my first principle of foreign policy: Good government at home"

V Opportunities for Pakistan

(a) Diplomatic efforts

- 1 ~~Three pronged approach with Afghanistan~~

In order to curb the ongoing tensions between Afghanistan and Pakistan especially the way TTP is attacking Pakistan Pakistan need to have talks with Afghanistan. Although Pakistan is already doing this and but this has bearing no fruits. Pakistan must engage with Afghanistan in order to tackle TTP. Pakistan now need to change its policy towards Afghanistan, Pakistan must adopt three pronged approach — diplomatic,

economic and military action. If diplomatic ties with Pakistan need to exert pressure on Afghanistan through economic policies like enhanced duties and tight policies regarding the influx of people.

**ii For the sake of Kashmir Issue**

**Pakistan must enhance its relations with the International Community**

Pakistan being isolated means a defeat to Pakistan. India is engaging in multi-lateral agreements with almost all the big powers.

Pakistan need to enhance its relations with not only china but with other countries also.

Pakistan cannot afford to take side of any party. And for the sake of Kashmir, Pakistan must enhance its relations with the International Community.

## (b) Economic Co-operation

-i Enhance economic cooperation with China

In order to have the support of International Communities and if Pakistan want to exert its influence Pakistan first needs economic stability and for that Pakistan need to enhance relations with China. The CPEC is crucial for the stability and progress of Pakistan. So in order to ensure that Pakistan need to enhance cooperation with China.

-ii Pakistan must also look for USA silicon valley's investment

In order to enhance its economy Pakistan need to engage more and more with the USA.

Pakistan can make better relations and can also boost its economy by pursuing USA to invest its silicon valley projects in the country.

## (c) Strategic Alliances

Pakistan need to have strategic alliances - Isolation means nothing for Pakistan. Pakistan must ensure that it maintains strong relations with all the major powers including China, USA and Russia. Pakistan must engage USA because now USA also needs Pakistan because the world is not unipolar anymore. There is a clear trend of multilateralism and in today's world where all are going towards geo-strategy to geo-economics.

### Conclusion:

Pakistan in order to stand still and want to have its influence on the International Community must look to sort out their foreign policy challenges whether they are in the security, economic or diplomatic domain. Pakistan have ample opportunities but for that first we need to have a foreign policy.

that pursue national interest and  
this policy must begin at home